

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3938
ANSWERED ON:23.12.2015
Newton Bhabha Fund
Chautala Shri Dushyant

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has set up 'Newton Bhabha Fund' in collaboration with the United Kingdom;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the aims/objectives of setting up the said fund;
- (c) the manner in which the said fund is likely to be utilised; and
- (d) the number of innovative scientific projects proposed by the Government till now with the support of Newton Bhabha Fund?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
(SHRI.Y. S. CHOWDARY)

- (a) Yes, Madam. Department of Science and Technology, Government of India has signed a MoU with Department of Business Innovation and Skills, Government of United Kingdom on establishing the Newton-Bhabha Programme.
- (b) The programme envisage undertaking joint activities to build research partnership between Indian and British institutes in jointly identified priority areas through multi-agency participation and funding. The priority areas for support include i) food-energy-water nexus; ii) public health and well-being; iii) sustainable infra-structure; iv) High value manufacturing; and v) big data science.
- (c)& (d): The joint activities under the Newton Bhabha Program would be implemented to our three broad categories of collaboration, namely, i) People: Building research and innovation capacity in natural sciences, engineering, social sciences and humanities, and clinical sciences through programmes including PhD exchanges, Post-doctoral training and mobility schemes and professional development (e.g. Innovation Leadership Programme, Professional Development and Engagement Programme, STEM Education Programme); ii) Projects: Collaborative research through Joint Centres, Joint Research Projects and access to Research and Innovation Infrastructures. Collaborations will be based on research excellence, in areas that make the maximum contribution towards jointly identified grand societal challenges including public health and well being, the food-water-energy nexus, and sustainable cities and rapid urbanization, underpinned by cross-cutting themes of big data and high value manufacturing; and iii) Translation: Building UK-India research and innovation partnership and capacity to address major societal and economic challenges through programmes to build partnership between business and academia. This is aimed to accelerate the development of research knowledge and innovation capacity building including entrepreneurship. Since conclusion of the MOU, Fellowships to INSPIRE doctoral candidates (two batches of 30 candidates each) and Entrepreneurship Fellowship (12 candidates) have been awarded. Six industrial R&D projects have been approved under translation mode in the areas of Affordable Healthcare, Clean Technology and Manufacturing Technology.
